

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9216

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a comprehensive study on the use of distributed ledger technology in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2024

Ms. MACE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a comprehensive study on the use of distributed ledger technology in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Affairs Dis-
5 tributed Ledger Innovation Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) veterans deserve efficient, transparent, and
2 secure access to benefits and services earned through
3 their honorable service;

4 (2) distributed ledger technology offers prom-
5 ising solutions for enhancing data integrity, security,
6 and transparency; and

7 (3) exploring innovative technologies such as
8 distributed ledger technology could significantly im-
9 prove the allocation of benefits, management of in-
10 surance programs, and maintenance of records with-
11 in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

12 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON**
13 **USE OF DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
15 shall conduct a comprehensive study on the feasibility, po-
16 tential benefits, and risks associated with using distrib-
17 uted ledger technology across various programs and serv-
18 ices of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

19 (b) MATTERS FOR EXAMINATION.—In conducting the
20 study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall examine
21 how distributed ledger technology could—

22 (1) improve the efficiency and accuracy of bene-
23 fits allocation to veterans;

24 (2) enhance the management and security of
25 veterans' records and personal data;

1 (3) streamline insurance claim processes for
2 veterans; and

3 (4) increase transparency and accountability in
4 the delivery of services to veterans.

5 (c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under
6 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

7 (1) experts in distributed ledger technology;

8 (2) representatives of veterans service organiza-
9 tions;

10 (3) the heads of other Federal agencies with ex-
11 perience using distributed ledger technology; and

12 (4) any other stakeholders the Secretary deter-
13 mines appropriate.

14 (d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
15 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
16 to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
17 House of Representatives a report on the findings of the
18 study under subsection (a). Such report shall include each
19 of the following:

20 (1) The findings of the study regarding the fea-
21 sibility of implementing distributed ledger technology
22 in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

23 (2) A description of potential benefits and risks
24 associated with the implementation of such tech-
25 nology in the Department.

1 (3) Any recommendations of the Secretary re-
2 garding pilot programs or other initiatives that
3 should be implemented to test the use of distributed
4 ledger technology in specific areas of Department
5 operations, such as benefits distribution or insurance
6 claims.

7 (4) Any legislative or administrative actions re-
8 quired to implement such technology in the Depart-
9 ment.

10 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) The term “distributed ledger” means a
12 ledger that is—

13 (A) is shared across a set of distributed
14 nodes, which are devices or processes, that par-
15 ticipate in a network and store a complete or
16 partial replica of the ledger;

17 (B) is synchronized between the nodes;

18 (C) has data appended to it by following a
19 specified consensus mechanism;

20 (D) publicly accessible or restricted to a
21 subset of participants; and

22 (E) may require participants to have au-
23 thorization to perform certain actions or require
24 no authorization.

- 1 (2) The term “distributed ledger technology”
- 2 means technology that enables the operation and use
- 3 of distributed ledgers.

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